

NATURALIZATION

Convention signed at Brussels November 16, 1868

Senate advice and consent to ratification April 12, 1869

Ratified by the President of the United States April 18, 1869

Ratified by Belgium May 30, 1869

Ratifications exchanged at Brussels July 10, 1869

Entered into force July 10, 1869

Proclaimed by the President of the United States July 30, 1869

16 Stat. 747; Treaty Series 24

The President of the United States of America and his Majesty the King of the Belgians, led by the wish to regulate the citizenship of those persons who emigrate from the United States of America to Belgium, and from Belgium to the United States of America, have resolved to make a convention on this subject, and have appointed for their plenipotentiaries, namely: The President of the United States of America, Henry Shelton Sanford, a citizen of the United States, their minister resident near his Majesty the King of the Belgians; and his Majesty the King of the Belgians, the Sieur Jules Vander Stichelen, grand cross of the Order of the Dutch Lion, &c., &c., &c., his minister of foreign affairs; who, after having communicated to each other their full powers, found to be in good and proper form, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I

Citizens of the United States who may or shall have been naturalized in Belgium will be considered by the United States as citizens of Belgium. Reciprocally, Belgians who may or who shall have been naturalized in the United States will be considered by Belgium as citizens of the United States.

ARTICLE II

Citizens of either contracting party, in case of their return to their original country, can be prosecuted there for crimes or misdemeanors committed before naturalization, saving to them such limitations as are established by the laws of their original country.

ARTICLE III

Naturalized citizens of either contracting party who shall have resided

five years in the country which has naturalized them, cannot be held to the obligation of military service in their original country, or to incidental obligation resulting therefrom, in the event of their return to it, except in cases of desertion from organized and embodied military or naval service, or those that may be assimilated thereto by the laws of that country.

ARTICLE IV

Citizens of the United States naturalized in Belgium shall be considered by Belgium as citizens of the United States when they shall have recovered their character as citizens of the United States according to the laws of the United States. Reciprocally, Belgians naturalized in the United States shall be considered as Belgians by the United States when they shall have recovered their character as Belgians according to the laws of Belgium.

ARTICLE V

The present convention shall enter into execution immediately after the exchange of ratifications, and shall remain in force for ten years. If, at the expiration of that period, neither of the contracting parties shall have given notice six months in advance of its intention to terminate the same, it shall continue in force until the end of twelve months after one of the contracting parties shall have given notice to the other of such intention.

ARTICLE VI

The present convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and by his Majesty the King of the Belgians, with the consent of Parliament, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Brussels within twelve months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and affixed thereto their seals.

Made in duplicate at Brussels, the sixteenth of November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

H. S. SANFORD	[SEAL]
JULES VANDER STICHELEN	[SEAL]